

# THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL,

OR,

## Political, Commercial, and Literary Gazette.

Vol. VI.]

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1819.

No. 230

### ASIA.

**Cannore.**—A Letter from this station dated October 24th 1819, contains the following communication:—

'The Natives are in a terrible state of want and misery from the excessive dearth of grain of all kinds, which is the more extraordinary, as the crop, which is just now ripening, is universally fine; and in fact, the last three or four harvests have been very good ones, so that there is no visible cause whatever for the scarcity. The Officers of Government should endeavour to find out the cause of this artificial dearth, in their particular districts, which is at present so mysterious; and to remove it, if within their power, as it is impossible to expect that men will starve in quietness, while convinced that there is plenty of grain in the country to supply their wants and save the lives of their children.'

**Etawah.**—The following is an Extract of a Letter from Etawah, dated October 9, 1819, as communicated in the Times of Tuesday last:—

'Both battalions of the 3d Regiment are ordered to Saugur, the 1st is to march on the 15th or 20th instant. The scarcity ever since 1817 has been severely felt. Grain is now selling at 11 and 12 seers per rupee at this very place, where in 1815, 45 seers were procurable for a like sum.'

At Saugur, I understand, that only six seers of Channa are to be had for a rupee, and then with difficulty, so that we shall be nearly starved; for notwithstanding such prices of grain, camels, bullocks, and horses, must be kept up. I hope this scarcity will not continue much longer. We have had accounts of a favourable change in the season, but monopolizers contrive to keep up the high price to the great distress of the poor.'

**Chittagong.**—Four shocks of earthquake were experienced in this place between the 13th and 20th ultimo.

**Calcutta.**—A Letter has been received in Town from a passenger on board the David Scott, dated July 7, 1819, from which we have been favored with the following Extract:—

'We have been allowed not only to anchor here but also to land, although we were given to understand, that it was a mark of especial favor. Having been fortunate enough to scrape an acquaintance with the Chaplain of the flag ship, he very obligingly procured a passport for P—and myself to visit the new house building for Buonaparte at Longwood, and accompanied us as Cicerone. To get access to the illustrious Exile, was of course out of the question, for he has long since refused to see visitors, and the only exception for the last eighteen months has been Mr. Ricketts, to whom it is said, he stated certain points, that he was desirous should be known to Lord Liverpool. We walked over the new house erecting close to his present one; it is a most elegant stone mansion, beautifully situated, and no expense or attention seems to be spared to make it handsome and comfortable; it is calculated, that it will cost near £40,000. Every thing, in fact, that can contribute to his comfort and mitigate the severity of his lot, is given with the greatest liberality, and no restriction is imposed, consistent with his safe custody. He is allowed a range of twelve or fourteen miles, over which he may ride *unattended*, but though his stable is full of horses, he never crosses one of them or goes beyond his grounds, but continues as solitary and as reserved as ever. His health is quite good now, and all the reports with which the Papers teem, of harshness and severity on the part of the Governor towards him, appear to me to be exaggerated.'

The curiosity I had to see him was very imperfectly gratified, he was walking in his garden when we were riding through part of his grounds, dressed in a blue surtout coat, white waistcoat, and cocked hat; his hands either in his pockets or behind his back, but not being near enough I could not distinguish his features. He was pacing with the same wide stride with which he walked over the Continent; and I could fancy him, with one foot on Rome, and the other on Moscow, then stepping to Vienna; and when he made a brisk sort of right about face, thinks I to myself he is now at Boulogne. As you are a friend of his, I send you a couple of plants I gathered from the bank surrounding his garden, not 200 paces from his house.'

The following is an extract of another Letter from St. Helena, dated July 1. 1819, which was transmitted to the Editor of the Mirror; and as it will serve to corroborate what is mentioned in the preceding, it will be quite in place here:—

'The ship David Scott, Hunter, reached St. Helena on the 7th July, having met with very light and baffling winds, although in general with moderate weather, during her voyage. The David Scott found the H. C. ships Dunira, and General Hewitt, about to sail for England. The Hewitt had lost her rudder off the Isle of France in a gale and was obliged to put in. A Dutch 80 gun ship had gone down off the Cape—all hands saved. The H. C. ships Larkins, Captain Loch, Bridgewater, Capt. Timmins, and Mar-

quis of Ely, Captain Richardson, are at present in the roads bound to China. The men of war now here, are the Conqueror 74, the Eurydice frigate, and the Leveret Tees, Sophy, and another sloop of war.

The passengers of the David Scott were allowed to land, and the Rev. Dr. Bryce and Capt. Montague having procured a pass to Longwood, had the pleasure to see the new lodging preparing for the great and mighty man of the island; they were also lucky enough to see Buonaparte taking a walk in his garden. He had not been seen out of his house for a very long period; until a few days before this, when he had been out of doors, and the day previous to their going up had paid a visit to Madame Bertrand. We were not sufficiently near to see the features or countenance of Buonaparte; but learnt that he was in good health, and saw enough about Longwood to satisfy us that his comfort in all things is much consulted.

Such attention is paid to his feelings that before the new house on which we were, the iron railing is so constructed as to be hid by the bank, between it and the house, that he may not see it from his windows. It is a neat cottage-looking house, in the form of a square, with two gable ends in the main front. The front is occupied by his library, dining room, and billiard room—the billiard room is the largest in the house, and may be somewhat about 28 feet in length. It is said, that when he goes into the new house it is intended to remove the soldier's cantonments now in sight, so as not to be seen from his dwelling. He is not prevented from taking a very extensive ride without any attendant if he chuses; but for a long time he has scarcely been out of his house, he spends much of his time in the warm bath. The Lady of Count Montholen had proceeded to England, in the Lady Campbell; Madame Bertrand is said to be in very delicate state of health.'

**Cholera.**—Fifteen Mussulmans, among whom were three children, assembled in one house to the north of Chandnee Choke, for the celebration of the Mohurram, are said to have been attacked by the Cholera Morbus on Saturday last. One of the children had already fallen a victim to the disease when a neighbouring gentleman, having been informed of the dangerous state they were in, saved them all by speedy doses of *Droge Amer*.

**Ship Launch.**—We understand that there will be launched from the Ship yard of the Honorable Company's Master Builder, at Kidderpore, between one and two o'clock this afternoon, (Thursday) Two Government Pilot vessels. The novelty of this launch will consist in the vessels going off the ways with royal yards across and sails bent, completely ready for sea, and we hear that instead of coming to an anchor it is intended that they should make sail immediately, and work up the river to abreast of the Bankshall, if the wind will admit.

**Theatricals.**—The Play of the *Iron Chest*, which was performed on Friday evening last at the Chowringhee Theatre, had excited great expectations, from the promised appearance of a Performer who had before supported the character of Sir Edward Mortimer, as it was said, with great *eclat*. We regret to say that in this particular the disappointment was very general, and the silence of the House in parts, which if given with effect were calculated to draw down great applause, indicated a feeling that could not be misunderstood. Although we delight to go into detail, where it is pleasures and beauties that we analyze, and care not in such instances, (as our late remarks on *The Revenge* will fully prove,) to preface our applause with an enumeration of the defects that blotted what would otherwise have been faultless excellence, yet when we cannot honestly say that the character was on the whole well sustained, or that the audience were in general satisfied, our refraining from detail will easily be understood as arising from a desire not to give pain unnecessarily; at the same time that the natural and just expectations of our readers should not be disappointed by our passing over in entire silence, that which has long formed a portion of our public labours, and, with little interruption, passed regularly under our review.

Whether from the effect of the principal character falling short of general expectation, the want of applause and encouragement in the house, or from the expected departure of one of their greatest ornaments, we know not—but it was a general remark, that the whole corps were out of spirits in *The Iron Chest*, and the three acts of this piece seemed to be of a most unusual length. The character of Adam Winterton, was, however, a perfect specimen of good acting; and it was difficult to persuade one's self, that the gentleman who performed it was not really a tottering old man. We never remember to have seen all the infirmities of age so faithfully preserved as in the characters of this description, which the Amateur generally sustains, and we are persuaded that the London boards do not often present representatives of equal truth to Nature,—superior we hold to be impossible.

*The Critic* was infinitely better performed than the preceding piece. Dangle was highly respectable; Speer excellent; Sir Eneful Pingiary, a perfect epitome, in dress, action, manner, and utterance, of all that the

name would imply. The characters of the Rehearsal, from the weeping Whiskerandos, to the thoughtful Lord Burlington, well depicted; and the tragic ladies of the piece, most happily ridiculous. The life of the whole however was Puff, the busy, self-important, and successful Critic. His dress struck us as ill-suited to the character, as resembling that of a mail-coach guard, or a royal livery servant in plain scarlet, rather than a scholar, or a man of letters; but this might have been perhaps a peculiarity of the day in which Sheridan wrote the piece, or might have, with him, been meant to designate some particular character, (if that was the original style of dress used by the first performer of the part.) Be this as it may, it was a defect soon forgotten in the excellent manner in which the Critic acquitted himself of his labours, and the Piece was received throughout with a feeling of great satisfaction.

We regret to learn, that the Theatre is to be deprived for some time of the assistance of this distinguished supporter of its interests as well as its attractions. It will be long, we fear, before his place will be adequately filled; and even if that should happen sooner than we anticipate, it will be long indeed, before his absence ceases to be regretted deeply and sincerely by all who have had the pleasure of enjoying his faithful and accurate representations of characters of every hue, on the boards of Chowringhee.

**Public Concert.**—The first of the series of Mr. and Mrs. Lacy's Concerts for the season, was given on Monday evening last, at the Town-Hall, and was attended by the Marquis and Marchioness of Hastings, the Lord Bishop, the Chief Justice, and their respective families, with all the principal ladies and gentlemen of the settlement.

Expectation was here at its highest pitch, and it was justified by the professional reputation of Mr. and Mrs. Lacy in Europe, as well as by the proofs they had already given of splendid talents and great musical power since their arrival in India. Fears were entertained by many, regarding the capacity of voices to fill so spacious a room, as that of the Town Hall is with only one exception, as we have heard, larger than any of the great public concert rooms of Europe, whether in England or on the continent.—The force of the Orchestra, and its ability to accompany with sufficient skill, Singers who had been accustomed to as great perfection in instrumental as in vocal music, was also a matter of apprehension, and in this particular, the result proved the justice of it. On the whole, however, the arrangements for the Orchestra were judiciously made, and the effect was perhaps as perfect as could well be expected from Amateurs, for of these its strength was almost wholly composed.

The first Song, *Sweet Helen*, is a composition of Mrs. Lacy's, and its simple yet touching melody, does as much justice to the purity of her taste, as the feeling manner in which it was sung did to her knowledge of the effect which that style of Music is calculated to produce on the delighted ears and hearts of others. There is so much to recommend this Song, both in the Poetry and the Air, and the whole character of it is so uniformly chaste, and so simply yet expressively beautiful, that we should conceive it would become a very general favorite, particularly in private circles, where Songs of a more difficult execution are less likely to find their way.

The Duo of *Vedete la vedete*, is one of Guglielmi's sweetest and most attractive compositions, and it was delightful to find the divine language, in which it is written, as familiar to the organs of these accomplished singers, as the tones of the music to which it so happily corresponds. To those who are familiar with real Italian singing, the beauties of that school become so marked, and constitute so peculiar a feature, that almost every English attempt to imitate them, produces a painful disappointment. There are few languages more easy of pronunciation in ordinary speech, yet there is decidedly no language which is so difficult to utter in singing, with the true and native effect; and the general failure of all private singers and many public ones, in this respect, who nevertheless give the undefined nasal tones of the French with great success, is the best proof of the truth of the remark. Mr. and Mrs. Lacy, however, were perfect specimens of the best Italian singers at Naples, Florence, or Milan, and we followed them through every accent of *Vedete la vedete*, from its commencement to its close, with a pleasure to which we have long been strangers, from this source at least, and could have adopted a line of the Song,

*Agitato il cor mi sento*

as expressive of that which we conceive every lover of good Music, and chaste singing, must have felt on hearing the charming sounds and mingled harmonies which this beautiful Duo presented at every bar.

The Glee of *Blow Gentle Gales*, by Bishop, furnished a fine opportunity for the displaying of Mr. Lacy's compass of voice, as well as depth of tone, and we believe its powers surpassed the expectation of most who were present. The closing line was given with wonderful effect, and we remember particularly, that among several of the wealthy Hindoos and Mohammedans who were present, the feeling of surprise and admiration at the expressive force and manly strength of a bass voice, was universal, and expressed by them without reserve; though they had hardly yet the refinement to rank Mrs. Lacy so far above the celebrated Nikhi, as they will progressively learn to discover her to be. It is a great stride towards the accomplishment of a desirable end, to get them even patiently to listen, or enter at all into enjoyments, which they have hitherto regarded as suited to our depraved taste alone. The more they know of the refined sources of our pleasures, and the more, above all things, that they learn to consider Music as an intellectual rather than a sensual enjoyment, the more effect it will produce in purifying their minds and hearts, and we should be happy therefore, for more reasons than one, to see this taste encouraged, and their numbers at our public Concerts doubled.

The Song of *Auld Robin Gray*, from which we had before received so much pleasure, and which we waited for, even amidst the beautiful Airs that preceded it, almost with impatience, was not sung with the same simplicity, or feeling, or effect, that ought, we think, always to characterize it, and which indeed was given to it by Mrs. Lacy at the Marchioness's *At Home*, at the Government House. It is difficult, we know, to prescribe the line to Public Singers, for the mixture of their skill and science, with their power of producing effect by the simple articulation of sweet and moving tones; but that such a line should be observed, and that the peculiar character of the composition, both in the sentiments of the poetry and the melody of the air, should fix this line, there can be, we should think, no doubt. In the whole range of our recollection, we do not remember a single Song in any language, which could bear away the palm from this, for affecting thoughts and incidents told in the simplest language, or for the searching and in some parts almost distressing tones of appeal to feeling, told also in the simplest notes, which characterizes the music of this favorite ballad. The two lines

*My father urged me snar, my mither did nae speak,*

*But she looked in my face till my heart was like to break,*

sung in the afflicting and mournful eloquence of the minor fall of the strain, leaves a feeling in the heart and a cadence on the ear, which it does not require to be a native of Scotland to feel or understand, but which must affect deeply and painfully all who are lovers of nature, poetry, and music, of whatever age and nation they may be.

Dr. Calcott's *Angel of Life*, was very generally admired, and Mr. Lacy's powers were seen in this to still greater advantage than in the Glee.

The Terzetto of *Zitti, zitti*, by Rossini, playful and enchanting as it really is, was scarcely attended to. It is perhaps better calculated for a small party than a large one, as the rapidity of utterance in some parts and the happy mixture of the voices in the others, is not so easily followed; in this instance at least, they were almost completely lost, though we are persuaded that it was counted on by the musical portion of the party, as one of the most attractive pieces of the evening.

The Overture to *Zauber Flute*, which commenced the Second Act, was not nearly so well played as the one of Clementine, which opened the first. In a Review of the Italian Opera, printed from a London Paper in our Journal of yesterday, the character of the Music of this Overture is fully described. It is one of the most difficult perhaps that could have been selected, as compared with the instrumental strength here, and it is one of those pieces in which nothing short of perfection will do, as its character renders even mediocrity insupportable; while there are others of less science but equal beauty, an imperfect execution of which would have given greater pleasure.

Handel's *Shall I in Mamre's fertile plains*, was better received; and both the Recitative and Air were given in the best style of that great Master's compositions, a style so peculiar, though still so excellent, as to forms almost a separate study necessary to understand it or to execute it with effect.

The Flute Concerto of Mr. Delmar, was beyond all praise. It gave universal delight, and was in our opinion, equal in sweetness of tone, and skill of execution, to any thing we have ever heard from the most celebrated performers of Europe.

The Duo of Sir John Stevenson, *Tell me where is Fancy bred*, was, to our taste, the most pleasing on the whole, that was sung throughout the evening; but though we have abundant inclination, we have not time left for the analysis of the grounds on which this preference was founded.

Sauvan's Romance, *Brulant d'Amour*, was among the least perfect of the whole, and we are sure, gave less general satisfaction than any other of the Songs, though in itself it is exceedingly striking and attractive. In all the other vocal pieces, the instrumental accompaniments were decidedly bad, and distracted the ear from the sweeter sounds of the voice, which the Piano alone should, we think, fill up the intervals of, unless the Orchestra was more perfect than it ever can be here; but *Brulant d'Amour*, on the contrary, formed a marked exception to this rule, and the animating burst of War and Love, sung in the most martial strain, made us look around for horns and trumpets, *tympani*, *fagotti*, and all the full force and power of the *con spirito* of such a piece.

Bishop's last Glee repaid all this. We had heard it before in private; but here it was given with much greater effect; and although no one heard the tenor voice, if it did not add to the harmony it did not disturb it, and fortunately the fullest concord that could be desired was produced by the treble and bass. We were glad to see this Glee encored. It richly deserved it; and had it not been for the harsh and jarring sounds of the Bugle obligate (which Mr. Kuhlau executed, as he does all Music that he attempts, with great skill and talent, but which was here exceedingl y out of place,) it would have formed a delightful close to an evening of more unmixed pleasure, than has long been derived in India, from any other species of public Entertainment.

The sun has closed upon our labours, and this will probably be printed with twenty errors, when read, corrected, and revised, by the glimmer of a mid-night lamp; but we can not drop the pen without expressing a hope, that those who have left their country, their homes, their friends, their children, in a reliance on the good taste, as well as liberal feeling of English hearts in India, will end as they have begun, under the full sunshine of the patronage of the greatest and the most exalted, as well as many of the loveliest and the most amiable of the ladies of India; to which the suffrages and acclaim of the gentlemen never can be wanting, while the cause itself is so powerful, and it is pleaded by the fair hands and gentle tongues of those, whom to please as well as to protect should be one of the most willing, as it is unquestionably one of the most agreeable duties of our lives.



## State of the City of Moorshedabad.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

In the absence of other local information I now send my promised Communication, of the present state of the city of Moorshedabad.

Ackbar, who succeeded his Father, Humayoon in 1556, and died in 1605, after a prosperous reign of about 50 years, was the first of the descendants of Tamerlane, who can be said to have firmly established himself on the throne of Delhi. He considerably extended his dominions, and was also the first of the Mahomedan Princes, who divided the Empire into Subadaries or Viceroalties, the Subadaries were divided into Provinces, governed by Naibs or Nawabs, subject to the Subahs, but had the privilege of corresponding with the Emperor's Minister. The policy of the Court of Delhi was frequently to change the Viceroys. The great distance of some of the Provinces from the seat of the Imperial Government suggested this measure; but after the vigorous reign of Aurungzebe, a succession of weak Princes, an exhausted Treasury, mutinous Troops, and unfaithful Ministers, afforded an opportunity of which the Subahs in the distant provinces were not backward in availing themselves, to become independent, and render the post they held hereditary in their families; while at the same time they affected submission to a power whose authority they no longer respected, sensible that the Imperial Government, conducted by a weak Prince and corrupt Ministers, was incapable of enforcing its commands, and in a short period the vast Empire that flourished under Aurungzebe was reduced to the city of Delhi, and a small district round it.

Moorshedabad, the capital of Bengal, and the residence of the Subahs of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa has long been falling to decay, and at the present time exhibits a miserable assemblage of tiled huts, and the dilapidated remains of former splendour. Nawsawkt, the extensive and princely residence of the late much respected and lamented Nawab, Mozuffer Jung, Naib Nazeem of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, Magistrate and Collector of Bengal, which, with various other appointments, he held under the administrations of Mr. Hastings, Lords Teignmouth, and Cornwallis, is now little better than a heap of ruins. The Choke, with the Mosque, and immediate vicinity of the Palace and Emaumbarra, is the only part of the City that can claim any pretensions to a decent state of repair. By the exertions of the Magistrate and the Committee appointed for the improvement of the City and environs, much has been done, and is now in a progressive state. The bamboos and jungle have in a great measure been cleared, particularly on the estate of Nawab Delaver Jung, (son of the late Nawab Mozuffer Jung,) who readily entered into the views of Government. Some jills have also been cleaned. A new puckah road has been constructed, leading to Jallagunge, previous to which, the approach to the residences of some of the most respectable branches of the family of the Nazeem, was impassable for carriages. Other roads have also been made in the vicinity tending to the convenience of the inhabitants, and clearing of the jungle, but much is still wanting to render it more healthy than heretofore, though its general sickly state may in a great measure be attributed to the neglect of the inhabitants themselves; for, with the exception of a part before mentioned, the new road and that leading to the Government Custom House at Laul Baugh, the interior of the City is a mass of filth. It lies in a hollow and is composed of narrow streets, overhung by choppahs, in which each individual consults his own convenience, regardless of the nuisance his encroachments on the public road is productive of. Besides this the practice of throwing the offal in the first place that offers, together with every vacant space being occupied by a hole filled with stagnant water, the receptacle of every kind of filth, and the common convenience of the neighbourhood, sends forth the most offensive exhalations. Under such circumstances, can it for a moment be wondered at, that the inhabitants are sickly? Would the natives lay aside their indolence and prejudices, and assist the efforts of Government and the exertions of the Magistrates, there is little doubt but this might be rendered equally healthy with any other city of a similar population and extent.

The banks of the River display an assemblage of puckah buildings of various descriptions, chiefly the temporary residences of the more opulent Natives, who pass the great part of the day during the rainy season in boats on the river, which are impelled by paddles, varying in the strength of their crews and ornaments, according to the means of the proprietor. Some decent Houses may be seen, but the number is small. The former Palace called the Aynah Mahal, the temporary residence of the Brother of H. H. the Nazeem (until an elegant Mansion constructing under the superintendence of Colonel Parby of the Engineers, is ready for his reception) is in a dilapidated state. Next to this, is the present Palace, erected under the superintendence of the late Colonel Fleming, a handsome modern building, with a pediment and colonaded verandah, on each face; but as this is only one wing of what was originally intended to be constructed for the residence of the Prince on the musnad, the appearance is naked for want of some corresponding building, and too lofty for its extent. This building is merely used for the Durbar, and the reception of Company on the Festival of the Behrah.

Such is the state of Moorshedabad, the ambition of whose Princes was once unlimited, acknowledging no law but their own arbitrary will, who contemplated the ruin of the British power, which eventually proved their own destruction, now exhibiting a striking example of the vicissitudes of human affairs.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant

October 20, 1819.

M.

## Colonel Monson's Retreat.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

A few days ago, you republished from the Asiatic Journal, a letter upon the subject of IRREGULAR CAVALRY. This letter, Sir, from the facts it contains, and other internal evidence, I have no hesitation in ascribing to the pen of the late lamented Colonel Richard Frith, of the Bengal Native Cavalry; and I advert to it now, for the purpose of correcting a slight error which has crept into your Journal of this day, in a letter under the signature of OLD IMPARTIALITY.

This Gentleman says, "The late Colonel Frith could have borne testimony of their attachment as all his corps deserted him in one night at Kassgunge, during the Mahratta War in 1803-4 and 5." Now, Sir, my memory fails me strongly, if the desertion here alluded to, did not take place at Khooshal Ghur in July 1804, during the well-remembered Retreat of Colonel Monson. This Corps, when encamped under the walls of Rampoorah, where it had been sent to re-inforce Colonel Monson, was, as far as I can recollect, about 1000 strong; at this period it was in full possession of its Commandant's confidence, and it certainly was the best appointed, and best mounted Irregular Corps of Native Cavalry I have ever seen. But effective, as to all appearance this Corps then was, it did in the most shameful and infamous manner, go over in a body, leaving its Commandant and two Native Officers (which Colonel Frith had taken from the 4th Native Cavalry) to the enemy at Khooshal Ghur, when the force under Colonel Monson was at its greatest extremity, hardly pressed by Jussunt Rao Holkar in the rear, and threatened by Bapoojee Scindeah, with a large body of Infantry and 21 pieces of Ordnance on its flank. The latter Chieftain, who had hitherto maintained a doubtful sort of neutrality, had just then declared his hostile intentions, towards the nearly discomfited British Force.

Many of your Military readers, will doubtless, be able to vouch for the correctness of the above statement. I had the honour of being personally acquainted with the late Colonel Frith, and have reason to believe, that this Corps was raised in consequence of certain suggestions, as to the policy of such a measure, which appeared in a very able pamphlet on the subject, addressed by that intelligent Officer to My Lord Wellesley. In April 1805, in marching from Bhurtpore towards Fattah Ghur, in company with a highly respected and esteemed Officer, of considerable rank in the Bengal Cavalry, (alas! also, now no more,) I had the honour of dining with Colonel Frith, at Firozabad. After dinner, the merits of the "Irregular Cavalry Question" was discussed, and I have a perfect recollection of hearing Colonel Frith recant all the opinions he formerly held upon this subject.

In corroboration of this assertion, I must once more refer your Readers to the Letter re-published by you, from the Asiatic Journal of May last; being convinced it was written, as already stated by Colonel Frith. But, Mr. Editor, "*tempora mutantur*," and what was very bad policy then, may be quite the reverse now. It is not my intention to discuss this point. Many years have elapsed since I have been in the Upper Provinces, and consequently I am not capable of offering an opinion, as to the effective state of the Irregular Corps now employed by Government. It is probable, that the following instance of the perfidy of "Irregulars" may not be admitted as a case in point; for altho' they were actually in our pay, they were lent to us, by Dya Ram, the Ex-Chief of Hattrass (then in close alliance with the British Government,) as an auxiliary force. I have this anecdote direct from the respectable Officer who commanded at Agra, when the occurrence I am about to relate, took place, and I can therefore vouch for the truth of it.

In the month of August 1804. (or very near that period) when Jussunt Rao Holkar had his head-quarters at Muttra, (which had been abandoned by the British, I dare not trust myself with a comment upon the propriety or impropriety of this measure.) Dya Ram was called upon by the Commander in Chief, (I believe) to assist the British Government, with such disposable Force as he had at his command; he accordingly sent a body of 1,500 Irregular Cavalry to Agra, where, upon their arrival they were taken into our pay, and placed at the disposal of the Commandant of that Garrison; (then Lieutenant Colonel, now Major General Sir Robert Blair, K. C. B.) They had not been long at Agra, before Jussunt Rao Holkar threatened an attack upon the city, and this body of men was consequently directed (at about noon) to take up a position in a certain direction, to cover the city in that point. The men seemed to march out cheerfully, and the Commandant of the Fort flattered himself that his orders would be carried into full effect. I leave your Military Readers to judge, what must have been the gallant Commandant's surprise, when it was reported to him in the evening, that the whole of the Hattrass auxiliaries had retired across the Jumna en-masse, and quietly retired to their respective homes, and this proved true!!! Dya Ram had afterwards the impudence to demand their arrears of pay, but this I am happy to say, was not complied with.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

CENTURION.

Calcutta, Nov. 3, 1819.

## Public Roads.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

As I believe you never refuse admission to communications, the insertion of which may be attended with utility to the Public, I beg through the medium of your Journal, to bring to the notice of the Board of Conservancy, the deplorable state of Balea Ghaut road: the repeated accidents I have witnessed there, in consequence of wheels of buggies, &c. suddenly falling into chasms, has urged me to this measure.

I am quite willing to believe, that the Board of Conservancy has already done much, but that is surely no reason for remaining silent on the subject of an existing and easily remediable evil. I do not expect impossibilities; but if the funds are so low as to prevent the Board from attempting to apply a remedy, I beg leave to suggest that of employing the many convicts now sed in idleness on the spot to level the road in question. By doing this they will elicit the thanks, not only of myself, but of many who have suffered by the present lamentable state of it: this however will be a poor reward in comparison with the satisfaction, they will derive from the consciousness of having performed a duty which has been productive of public benefit.

Balea Ghaut, Oct. 22, 1819.

A NON SUBSCRIBER.

## State of the Bombay Marine.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

The present ineffective state of the Bombay Marine is a subject which might be expatiated on, at considerable length; but my object in now addressing you, is to make public, through the medium of your valuable Journal, some remarks on the extraordinary manner in which Trials are conducted in that Service, by which the Members of this deserving branch of the Hon. Company's Service are deprived of the privilege enjoyed by all other branches of the public Service, whether the King's or Company's, I mean Trial by a regularly constituted Court.

A Marine Court of Enquiry is composed of the same number of Members as a Court Martial, having its Judge Advocate presiding, and the whole of its Members sworn. Witnesses are also examined on oath; but there being no Martial Law in the Marine, the decision of all Trials rests with the local Government, which is not bound to pay any regard to the opinion of the Court; and in several recent Trials, that opinion has been disregarded altogether, and punishment inflicted at the will of the superior power, without assigning a reason for such a sentence.

I have always understood, that the purpose of administering an oath to the Members of a Court Martial, was that of securing justice to the parties, prosecutor and prisoner, but particularly to the last. Are they not sworn to decide according to the evidence? and are they not bound by the practice of all Courts of Law, Military as well as Civil, to give the prisoner the advantage of any doubts that may arise? A prisoner tried by a Marine Court of Enquiry, is not, however, benefitted by these salutary provisions, when the decisions of such Court are not only not final, but may be set aside by the local Government, without even a reason being assigned for annulling their award, and without any further examination being ordered.

A late Regulation of the Bombay Government directs, that the Proceedings of all Courts of Enquiry in the Bombay Marine shall be first transmitted to the Superintendent of Marine for the time being, who is to make his remarks before it is handed up to the Government. The present Superintendent of Marine is an honourable man. His successors however, may not be so, and whoever may fill his place will always be an individual, subject like every one of us, to all the frailties of erring humanity.

But whatever be the character of the Superintendent, however high his reputation as an honourable and impartial man, it cannot affect the truth of this assertion, that it is subversive of every principle of law and justice, that a person filling that office, should be allowed to give an opinion on the Proceedings at the Trial of Prisoners, the charges against whom are (as in most instances they must be) framed by himself, and who, it is by no means improbable, that he may have therefore a strong interest in convicting.

In illustration of the observations I have made, I beg to offer you the following account of a late Trial, the truth of which I can substantiate.

A Commander and the Officers of a Cruiser were placed under arrest, early in April 1818, on charges framed by the Superintendent of Marine, and having gone through the usual forms of Trial, the Proceedings were sent up to the Government on the 5th of that month; but not being satisfactory, the Court were directed to re-assemble and put certain questions to the Prisoners, which was accordingly done and the second Proceedings were forwarded to the Government also.

From this time, until the 28th of November, the Prisoners were kept in a state of suspense, when they were again called before the Court, who informed them, that the Government had directed certain questions to be put to them, and that they were expected to give explicit answers to them.

The Commander begged to know if he stood before that Court as a Prisoner, which plain question the Court could not answer; but simply repeated the purposes for which they were assembled. The Commander testified his willingness to answer any questions the Government might wish to put to him, after they had given their final decision on his case; but whilst he stood before that Court as a Prisoner, he must decline giving any answer.

The Proceedings were then closed, and a third time sent to the Government, who gave their final decision some time after (date not exactly known).

Notwithstanding the punishment already inflicted by the prolongation of the Trial, the Commander was suspended until some time in 1819.

This manner of conducting Trials in the Bombay Marine, is, I think, neither conformable to justice, nor to the usages that prevail in all Courts Martial, whether in His Majesty's Navy or Army, or in the Hon. Company's Service. I am, &c.

AQUITAS.

## Bencoolen.

We have been favoured with the following interesting particulars by a friend at Fort Marlborough, which we have no doubt will prove most acceptable to the public.

Fort Marlborough, August 23, 1819.

SIR,

If you think the following information will add any thing to the columns of your excellent paper, it is at your service, and it is always gratifying to give it when it holds out such encouragement to that valuable class of society, the British merchants.

It was with feelings of joy, greater than I can describe, that on the 31st of July, we saw Sir Stamford Raffles and suite bear in sight on the ship Indiana, after an absence of 11 months; on many accounts his presence was greatly required and more ardently wished, as he alone was able to carry into effect those views which were only partially carrying on, during his absence, and might in some measure be considered experimental. The great body of the Malay population also were very anxious to know how far, and upon what system, he meant to improve and draw forth resources from a neglected, but fertile country. His activity in business is hardly equalled by any man; and ever since he has landed not an hour has been given to relaxation; some of his measures are important to the future improvement and prosperity of this place, and for which the trading part of the community are highly indebted.

We were gratified beyond our utmost wishes when on the 12th, the anniversary of the Regent's Birth, the fort duties were all abolished, and a committee appointed to enquire into the harbour and pilot fees, so long a heavy burthen and cause of complaint, with a view to their being reduced to a moderate charge. The last is not yet made public, but they advise the whole system to be completely abolished and a new code altogether established. The fees on going into the Basin, to be reduced from 10 to 2½ dollars per every 100 tons, on going in and out. That a pilot (European) be fixed on Rat Island. That a Flag staff and light be also erected there. That the same fees be paid going to Pulo Bay, provided the vessel takes a pilot, but not else, — a ship lying in the outer roads pays nothing; with respect to boat-hire and wharfrage a similar reduction is advised. One dollar per ton for the former either in weight or measurement, as the case may be, except Bar Iron, for which, from the trouble of landing it in, 1½ dollar is to be allowed.

The most important part of the whole is their strongly recommending the whole to be thrown open for a fair competition amongst individuals instead of its continuing a monopoly in the hands of the Master Attendant as heretofore. A boat of 10 tons downwards requires no port clearance; and the charge upon vessels of a larger burthen is to be reduced. Thus we have a free port and whatever this country can consume, no greater advantages can be held out to traders than such liberal ones as these; we hope to see this the Depot for goods of all kinds 200 miles North and South. In a political point of view, and as concerns our Dutch friends, the issue will be critical. — One plan carried into effect would make the whole complete and make an indifferent harbour as good as natural difficulties will allow. It is this. The inner roads will permit ships of 800 tons to lie at anchor within 1½ mile of the wharf. The ground is what sailors call 'good holding' but on account of a swell which prevails during the North West Monsoon, if a cable breaks a ship must go on shore. Mooring Chains, (with which Calcutta abounds and of no use in the river,) laid down, would allow ships to lie there at all times in safety, and the facility in unloading would be great indeed. — Too much praise cannot be given to our active Lieutenant Governor, who literally does, 'put the shoulder to the wheel.'

A FRIEND TO IMPROVEMENT.

## Clerical Queries.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

Conscious that you are a Friend to Justice, Impartiality, and Candour, I venture to send you the following Queries.

1. Is it just to appoint a very junior Chaplain to the rank of Archdeacon, to the prejudice of the senior Chaplain, and others, who have filled their stations with integrity, much longer than this dignitary elect has done?
2. Is not the man who accepts of a situation, that he knows is, by right of succession, another's, equally guilty of injustice?
3. Can either of those parties be entitled to respect who gives or receives what is *bona-fide* the lawful right of another's?

I am induced to propose these Queries for the public eye, through your Journal, from a sense of their importance, as the Office itself is new in India. I am no otherwise interested in their solution, however, than every candid and liberal man ought to be.

M——s, Oct. 14, 1819.

A LAYMAN.



## Himalaya.

On the Limit of Constant Congelation in the Himalaya Mountains.—From the Quarterly Journal of Literature, Science and the Arts.

From recent inquiries and observations, of which the result has been the subject of a communication to the Asiatic Society at Calcutta, it appears, that the inferior limit of perpetual congelation in the Himalaya range of mountains does not descend so low, as was to be concluded from theory.

The elevation of several stations, deduced from barometrical observations taken in June 1817, has been already given in a preceding number of this Journal. (Vol. vi. p. 64-65.) It was there remarked (p. 65,) that the elevation of the spot, where the Gauri river emerges from the snow, had been found by measurement to be 11,543 feet above the level of Calcutta, (or little more than 11,050 feet above the sea,) in a parallel of Latitude where the boundary of constant congelation might, according to theory, be expected at 11,400 feet. And a bridge of spars over the *Chalápal* river, or rather over the chasm in which it flows, two miles from its source, was found by geometrical measurement to be 12,670 feet above the sea; which would be quite conformable to theory, if the chasm were 1200 feet deep.

Some inhabited places, (occupied, as is presumed, during the summer only,) were noticed, of which the elevation is from 11,050 to 11,489 feet above the level of Calcutta. These were concluded (ib. p. 67,) to be on the verge of the limit of congelation, as inferred from theory.

It was not supposed in these remarks, that the line of perpetual snow can be a well-defined, distinct, and precise one. The boundary of congelation must vary from year to year, with the mildness and severity of the season, and consequently must be taken for particular places, at a medium of a larger period. It must vary likewise according to the exposure of the spot. In a screened position or sheltered aspect, a deep chasm, or secluded cave, snow would remain at an elevation below that of more exposed situations.

Glaciers, as is well known, are perennial in certain situations, at altitudes much short of the prevailing line of permanent congelation in the same mountains. The glacier of the Rhone, immediately above the sources of that river has been measured 1,842 French metres, or 6,044 English feet above the sea. The line of congelation in that parallel of latitude (46°) has been stated from a table computed according to theory, at 7,402 feet.

A considerable latitude therefore is to be allowed for variance of particular observations, and for their disagreement with a theory expressed in empirical formulae, grounded on no induction of ample facts.

Neither is it to be expected, that isothermal lines, which are far from corresponding to the parallels of latitude at a low elevation above the level of the sea, shall agree to precision, with those parallels at Alpine, and more than Alpine, height.

These considerations are strengthened and confirmed by present information. Among the most elevated positions, of which the height was measured barometrically, as before mentioned, are the village and temple of *Milem*, 11,405 and 11,682 feet above Calcutta. That altitude, in the parallel of latitude assigned to the place, 30° 25', would be near the verge of perpetual snow, and even within its limit, according to theory. Yet the observer, Captain Webb, at the time of visiting this place, found extensive fields of buckwheat and Tartaric barley, occupying the space between the village and temple.

A twelvemonth later, on the 21st of June last, the same surveyor proceeding southward from *Jóshi-mat'h*, and from the *Dauli* river, observed barometrically the altitude of a station in the ridge of mountains which he traversed south of that river. He found the height 11,680 feet above the level of Calcutta; yet his encampment, where the observation was made, was surrounded by flourishing woods of hoary oak, long-leaved pine, and arborescent rhododendron; and the surface was clothed with a rank vegetation of herbs.

On the following day, he reached the summit of a pass (*Pilgointi chur-ñai*) where he gain observed with the barometer, and concluded from it an elevation of 12,642 feet above the level of Calcutta; (and consequently more than 12,700 feet above the sea.) A thick mist here confined the prospect, but no snow was to be seen contiguous to the spot. The surface exhibited a black soil, unless where the bare rock appears; and was clad with creeping plants and flowering herbs in luxuriant abundance. The shoulder of a mountain, on the one hand, rising still higher, was yet without a vestige of snow; and appeared, as far as the view extended through the mist, enamelled with flowers. A declivity, on the other hand, descended towards a forest of birch, pine, and rhododendron. In hollows and recesses, accumulations of snow were observed at a less height. But the snow, as was surmised, would probably be dissolved by the damp warmth of the ensuing rainy season.

The goat-herds of the country are accustomed, as they informed Captain Webb, to lead their flocks to pasture during the subsequent months (July and August) upon a yet loftier ridge of mountain, estimated to be as much above the pass of *Pilgointi*, as this is above the preceding day's encampment; that is, nearly a thousand feet. This information goes to remove the actual boundary of congelation still farther; and deserves to be verified, as proposed to be done, by again visiting the place at the specified season.

The road from the village and temple of *Milem*, before mentioned, to wards Tartary, leads along the bank of a rapid mountain stream, and is evidently, therefore, a continued ascent. The snowy ridge is crossed by this

route on the fifth day's journey from *Milem*, travelling with droves of laden cattle. It is passable in the month of July, at which season the carriers find pasture for their beasts of burden (sheep and goats) even at the fourth halt going from *Milem*, at a station which must consequently be taken to be considerably elevated above it.

Combining these corroborative circumstances, the limit of vegetation is carried by estimate to several hundred feet above the observed altitude of *Pilgointi* pass, and more than a thousand above that of the temple at *Milem*, or beyond thirteen thousand feet above the level of the sea, in the parallel of 30½ degrees of latitude.

In a communication to the Asiatic Society from another surveyor, Captain Hodgson, who visited the remotest accessible fountains of the Ganges and Jumna rivers, it appears, that the glacier and wall of snow, from beneath which the Ganges issues, was by him determined at 12,914 feet above the level of the sea.

The limit of constant congelation, then, may be reckoned in round numbers, either at 13,000 feet above the sea, in the parallel of 31°, as inferred from Captain Hodgson's measurement; or at 13,500 feet in that of 30°, as concluded by Captain Webb, from his observations. The former of these differs from theoretical conclusions, about 1,750 feet, the latter about 2,000 feet.

The recent barometric observations, which have been relied on, and which were taken in the month of June last, are as follows:

Crossing the ridge south of the *Dauli* river, on 21st June, at noon, barometer 19.63; thermometer attached and detached 56½.

Summit of *Pilgointi* pass, 22d June, 1 P. M. barometer 18.96; thermometer 54½.

At the preceding station, the thermometer at sunrise, in the open air, stood at 48°.

The corresponding observation, assumed for the purpose of an immediate computation, was, bar. 29.58; therm. 84°, taken from a meteorological diary of the former year at Calcutta. It is subject to correction for an inconsiderable difference, between that and the actual contemporary observations at Calcutta, when ascertained. The variations of the barometer are, in that climate and country, so limited and so regular, as to induce no risk of great error; and accordingly, on reference to diaries of antecedent years, the mean elevation of the mercury in the barometer, on the date of the summer solstice at noon, at Calcutta, appears to be 29.545; and the mean for the whole month of June is 29.56; the temperature being 83°. Greatest height, within a month before and after the solstice, at noon, 29.7; least height, 29.4.

The observer notices, that he was actually in possession of five barometers in good order, one of them constructed by an eminent artist of London, and serving as a standard of comparison for the rest. The instrument, with which observations were made in the preceding year, was still in use, and agreed precisely with that test.

These barometrical measurements, it will be remarked, are but approximations. The possible errors, however, which can hardly exceed 100 feet, is very much short of the great amount in which the limit of perpetual congelation appears to differ from the theory.

In speaking of theory, that particular one has been here chiefly in view, which was given to the public not long since, as a result of certain experiments made with a delicate thermometer in a receiver of an air-pump. From theoretical data so obtained, a table is computed, exhibiting the height of the curve of permanent congelation. Its extremes are, under the equator 15,207 feet; at the poles 0; and the height in the middle latitude 45°, is 7671 feet. The intermediate degrees likewise are computed, and from them may be concluded for the tropics 12,853 feet, and for the polar circles 2419 feet. The author of it has affirmed, that this table, though calculated from theoretical data, will be found to coincide with actual observation\*.

Previous computations, founded upon observations which were discussed by *Deluc* and other writers, gave the height of the line of permanent snow differently, viz., under the equator, as actually observed at the basaltic summit of *Pitchincha*, half a degree south of the equator, 2,434 French toises, or 15,565 English feet. In the mean latitude, according to inferences from observations for France and Chili, 1,500 to 1,600 toises (or about 10,000 English feet), at or near the tropic, as at the Peak of *Teneriff*, 2,100 toises. At or near the polar circles 0.†

Baron *Humboldt* found by observation, the region of perpetual snow commencing under the equator, in South America, 4,800 metres (15,747 feet); and in Mexico, he says, the eternal snows commence according to his measurements, in latitude 19° to 20°, at 4,600 metres (15,091 feet). The same intelligent traveller assigns the height of 2,550 metres, (8,365 feet,) to the line of permanent congelation in latitude 46°.‡

I shall not stop to contrast these estimates and computations; but remark, that observations of voyagers towards polar regions, and of travellers in Alpine countries, do not coincide with the assumptions of theory, and the tables computed from it.

Nor can it, consistently with experience and analogy, be expected, that one and the same scale shall serve both for northern and southern hemispheres, and for eastern and western continents; for solitary peaks, and for vast mountain-masses.

London, Jan. 1, 1819.

H. T. C.

\* Supplement, Ency. Brit. iii. 191. † Des Marets, Ency. Meth. Geo. Phys. 69, 5. ‡ Political Essay on New Spain, i. 3, p. 74.

## King's and Company's Army.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

In your Paper of Saturday last, there is a Letter signed JUDEx, which in a small space, includes a number of very sensible and well-founded remarks, on the introduction of a recent article of war from H. M. service, into that of the Honorable Company. It is really to be lamented, that those who have the framing of new laws should perform that duty in so loose and negligent a manner as almost always to create a doubt in common minds—but in this case in very comprehensive ones—of the applicability of such laws to certain parts of the community, so much so indeed, as in this instance to have rendered it necessary to take legal advice and opinions before the abovementioned Regulation could be introduced, virtually, into our Matiny Act. After all, my humble opinion is, (though I submit it with the utmost respect and deference) that the intention of His Majesty was misconceived by the learned Gentlemen, who determined that that Article was meant to apply to this Army, merely because we receive Brevet Commissions from the King.

As I understand the words of JUDEx, they inform us, that it was on the opinion of "high legal authority in India," that this new punishment of (to us) perpetual loss of rank was added to the penalties already to be inflicted on our Commissioned Officers, found guilty of any military offence. On all points relating to Civil Jurisprudence I have as an high idea of the sound knowledge, and correct judgment of the Lawyers at the Bar of the Supreme Court, as I have of those of their professional brethren at that of any of the Courts in Westminster Hall; but, without meaning to be presumptuous, I do not think, that any Barrister's knowledge of *Military Law* can be so deep as to give his opinion on any point regarding it—the character of infallibility. Besides this, there are two other kinds of knowledge, which such a person must possess before he can be qualified to pronounce the law, or the intention of those who framed it, in the case now before us; and these are:—first, of the radical and essential difference which exists, in the most impartial points, between the two Armies, which in fact forms the very basis of this Army's constitution; and secondly of the purpose for which the above Brevet Rank was granted to us. In both these kinds of knowledge, the learned Advisers who gave the present opinion appear to me to have been deficient, nor is it fair to expect any Civilian to be otherwise; they could not have known the practice which has hitherto been always adopted upon the enactment of such new Military Laws as were intended to have effect in this, as well as in the King's Army,—and which practice your Correspondent JUDEx has correctly noticed.

I perfectly well remember the circumstance of the punishment in question having been promulgated in General Orders; but forget in what manner the legal opinion was introduced, or alluded to, and I have no immediate means of reference to ascertain that point: However, I have a doubt of the correctness of your Correspondent's account of the matter, and imagine that it was adopted in consequence of the advice and opinion of the Crown Lawyers, and in my present argument such only is the light in which I view it. If it came from the Court of Directors, with orders for its insertion in their Code of Military Laws, then the intention of His Majesty must have been regularly intimated to the Court, and by them as regularly acted upon; and in that case the propriety of the article's being extended to the Company's Army cannot be questioned; but I must be understood to speak of it as having been introduced here, on the mere opinion of Counsel regarding the King's intention, as stated by JUDEx.

To proceed then with my observations. His Majesty, (whom we must consider, nominally, the author of this new punishment) could not, I maintain, have ever intended, that any Regulation should extend to this Army, that by its operation (and this has already operated) should punish a Company's Officer with ten times the rigour that it would a King's, and yet such must now inevitably happen; for, as JUDEx well observes, rank once lost in this Army can never be regained; and thereby a perpetual punishment is inflicted for comparatively a slight offence; and a punishment too, more galling to an Officer (leaving the crime for which it is inflicted out of the question) than being dismissed the service altogether. If I mistake not, this punishment is directed to be substituted, in many cases, for mere suspension from rank and pay, so that it may prove a lasting penalty for a very slight offence indeed. Now that such should be its effect, could never have been the intention of His Majesty, that such would be its effect, could not possibly have been known by the legal interpreters of that intention. It is the first Regulation which has ever been framed, tending to make an Officer remain in the Army under perpetual punishment, for an offence, certainly not so inexpiable as to deserve the infliction of so severe a penalty; and it is my opinion, that a crime of a nature heinous enough to merit such a punishment would unfit the perpetrator for the highly honorable situation of a Commissioned Officer; and in consequence render his being cashiered indispensably necessary. It is too severe for a minor offence, and too mild for a disgraceful one; and I am, therefore, not aware of any crime to which it can be with justice applied, nor to which I, as a Member of a Court Martial sworn to act with conscientious justice, could think myself justifiable in applying it.

I speak of this punishment as applicable to a Company's, not to a King's Officer, who can evade its permanency, and even its duration for the period of common suspension, by several methods, none of which are available (and I am very glad to say so) by an Officer of this service; and in fact

\* But here I think he is wrong, for if I remember rightly it was the opinion of the Crown Lawyers which caused its introduction among us.

it is scarcely more severe in the King's Army than that suspension which it is meant to supersede. Our being furnished with His Majesty's Brevet Commissions, corresponding with our own, is solely for the purpose of equalising us, but in India only, with King's Officers, and to prevent a most unjust, and what was found to be a most unbearable supercession; but it has not the power of transforming us *in toto*; if it had, we too, should be overtopping our veteran seniors, who had less money or less interest than ourselves; we, too, should be occasionally favored with a taste of half-pay luxury, and a variety of other things needless to mention, but which (speaking for myself,) I consider us to be just as well without. The legal Advisers of this measure erred in judgment, I think, when they gave our Brevet Commissions as their reason for advising this never-ending punishment to be inflicted on us; and indeed their confined acquaintance with Military Law and military practice has, on more than one occasion, led them, as it is natural it should do, into similar misconceptions (I speak of the legal body, of course, and not of individuals), productive of effects of which they could have had no foreknowledge. TYTLER (himself a great Civil Lawyer) says, what fully warrants the above assertion, that "Lawyers being in general as utterly ignorant of Military Law and practice, as the Members of Courts Martial are of Civil Jurisprudence and the forms of the ordinary Courts; so nothing can result from the collision of such warring and contradictory judgments, but inextinguishable embarrassment, or rash, ill founded, and illegal decisions."

I have no doubt, that a Lawyer can give a most correct explanation of the legal meaning of a Military Regulation; but I doubt if he can interpret the intention of him who frames such Regulation, so well as a Judge Advocate, or a Commander in Chief can; because to do that, there requires a more intimate knowledge of other military matters than what any person, who is not a Soldier, can be reasonably expected to possess; and this reasoning is particularly correct, as it relates to the Rule now under consideration. This punishment of putting an Officer lower on the list, is not limited to degradation in the rank he holds, at the time; that is, not to making him 4th from 3d Captain, but he is liable to be (supposing him a Captain) retrograded till he reaches the bottom of the Subaltern List even, and surely an Officer, who could commit an offence of a nature that, would render him liable to so severe (that's too weak a term, but I can't just now find one strong enough) a penalty, cannot be a proper person to bear a Commission in any Army. But the loss of even one step in this Service, is quite irreparable, and may have the immediate effect of throwing the offender's promotion four or five years back, and often a still greater number; while he has not the least chance of ever regaining his proper standing. It bears so exceedingly hard upon our Army, that I really do not think it was ever intended to form a part of our Regulations; and I will venture to express a hope, that some modifications may be yet considered in the application of it to the Officers of the Indian Army.

JUDEx ALTER.

## Calcutta and St. Petersburg.

The following Extract from an English Paper has been sent us by a Correspondent, who states that he does not recollect having met with it in the Calcutta Prints. Assigning the same age to Petersburg and Calcutta is, we think, incorrect. Was not the former founded by Peter the Great who died in 1725? Calcutta was but an inconsiderable Factory before the Revolution which rendered the English in 1757 the masters of Bengal. The writer of this article might have found another object of comparison between these two towns—the general habit of bathing; here, it appears, for fear of the heat, and there it is said for fear of the cold.

"It is little known, because it can have happened to but very few to have had opportunity to make the observations, that St. Petersburg and Calcutta, two cities placed at the opposite extremities of the habitable part of our hemisphere, and at so great distance from each other, have a close resemblance in the character of their plan and appearance, and that there is no other city which resembles either. A person who had seen Calcutta, walking suddenly on the first day of his arrival, in one of the finest stations and apartments of St. Petersburg, at the early sunrise of that fine summer climate, thought he was again on the banks of the great and rapid Ganges, and not of the clear, smooth Neva.

Both cities stand on flat alluvial soil; the buildings of both, large and white, the alignments broad and strait, with spacious open squares; the houses of both have the air of palaces; both cities cover a large space; the St. Neufsky-Street, at St. Petersburg, is in a right line from the Admiralty, three miles and a quarter in length, terminating by the Cathedral of St. Neufsky.

The character of all the ancient cities of Europe, London, Paris, and the rest, is that of a fortress; the greatest quantity of building, crowded close into the smallest space, with walls, gates, and ditches of defence: the modern and noble capitals of St. Petersburg and of Calcutta, in the altered condition of human society, have not required this lamentable caution, but have a plan of spread and extension, unrestrained by military limitation.

A Russian Nobleman asking an English stranger at St. Petersburg "What, Sir, do you think, *de notre Ville precree*?" was answered by the Englishman, that he had never thought to give it such a designation, though, really a plant of a forced growth, but had considered and described it as "*la Ville, bel enfant de cent ans*." St. Petersburg and Calcutta are of nearly the same date of establishment, about one century only." [Cal. Times,



## Military Justice.

Vitæ nemo sine nascitur; optimus illi.  
Qui minimis arguitur.

Hæc.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

I was induced, from perusing Lieutenant McNaghten's Letter, proposing the establishment of a Military Fund, to send to the Mirror Press for the Letter addressed to the Most Noble the Marquis of Hastings, by A FRIEND TO THE ARMY, of which, it is rumoured, that Lieut. McNaghten is also the Author. The philanthropic spirit which breathes throughout, and the modesty with which the arguments in favour of the proposed benevolent Institution, are urged in the former Letter, led me to expect a second treat, in the perusal of the latter. But, Mr. Editor, with sorrow; I say it,—I have been sorely disappointed, I have given this Letter a careful and attentive reading, and I conceive, I should be shrinking from my duty, were I to allow such parts of it, as appear to me incorrect, and what is worse offensive to a large portion of the Officers of the Bengal Army to remain unrefuted, or at all events unanswered. This, Sir, is an ungracious task, but I trust I shall prove by my moderation, that I am not actuated by any base or improper motive; in thus bringing to the notice of your Military Readers, those passages of the Letter of A FRIEND TO THE ARMY, which, I cannot but deem highly objectionable. I am also inclined to hope, that that Gentleman will, upon a reconsideration of the subject, be willing to admit he has occasionally been led to form his conclusions, upon the points I shall advert to, rather too hastily.

In page 11, the Author, after animadverting, pretty generally upon the mode of administering Military Justice, distinctly asserts, that "In the first place, the Prisoner is not informed, that it is competent to him to challenge any member he pleases, shewing an admissible cause—nor is there any of that formality observed in constituting the Court, which serves so well to strike the spectators with the proper ideas of its solemnity."

In reply to the first part of this Extract, I beg leave to observe, that in all the Courts Martial I have been present at, since the Minor Courts have been placed upon the same solemn footing as General Courts Martial, the Prisoner has invariably been allowed the Privilege of Challenging the Members previously to the Court's being sworn in.\* In reply to the concluding part of the Extract, I have only to remark, that where the formalities preserved, have not been duly observed, the Courts so formed, have been illegal, and the Officers composing them have been guilty of gross neglect of duty, and wilful disobedience of the Standing Orders of the Service.

I trust, for the honour and credit of the Bengal Army, the experience of this FRIEND TO THE ARMY has been very circumscribed. If on the contrary, it has been extensive, this short passage conveys a grave censure (to make use of the mildest term) upon no less a proportion of the Army than is comprised within the list, commencing with the senior Captain down to Subalterns of two years standing in the Service, at which period the latter become eligible to sit as Members of Courts Martial, and conduct the Proceedings of Native Courts.

I shall pass over what the Author asserts, relative to the careless manner in which the oaths are administered, &c. because I conceive I have already established, that the Regulations of the service require, that the whole Proceedings of the Court be conducted with due regard to form, any departure from which, is gross neglect of duty, and disobedience of orders.

The Author next complains of the manner in which the Articles of War have been translated. This was performed by the late Colonel Scott, a man who (as many of your Military Readers may recollect) bore the reputation of being gifted with superior talents; and this Translation, if I mistake not, was incorporated into one of Gilchrist's Works, verbatim, perhaps with some alteration in the orthography, conforming to the system invented by himself. I, for one, Mr. Editor, am perfectly contented with this Translation, having always found it commensurate to the purposes for which it was intended. The attack upon the whole body of the Military Interpreters, I shall pass by in silence, being convinced that there is not one Officer in five hundred, who in the course of twenty years, has had opportunities of forming an opinion, as to the merits of a body of men, dispersed as these Officers are all over the country. I shall, for the present, conclude, reserving for a future communication, a few strictures on the observations contained in this Letter of A FRIEND TO THE ARMY, relative to the Native Officers of the Service.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Calcutta, Oct. 30, 1819.

CENTURION.

\* I am aware, that a variety of opinions exist upon the propriety of allowing the Prisoner this option at Minor Courts, but I merely speak from my own experience.

## Administration to Estates.

Mrs. Caroline Matilda Blankenhagen,—Dempster Heming, Esq.

William Fairnie, late Surgeon of the Hon'ble Company's chartered ship Aberton,—Dempster Heming, Esq.

John Bannister Hudson, late of Calcutta,—Dempster Heming, Esq.

George Williams, late Chief Officer of the Hon'ble Company's ship Thomas Grenville,—Dempster Heming, Esq.

Louisa D'Cruz, late of Calcutta,—John Groser of Calcutta, during the minority of Joseph Groser, his wife, and the absence of Diago D'Cruz, the husband of the said Louisa D'Cruz.

Ensign Binny, late of the Hon'ble Company's Service, James Colvin, Esq.

Captain Charles Bonnythorne Borlase,—James Calder, Esq.

## Domestic Occurrences.

### MARRIAGES.

On the 2nd instant, by the Reverend F. Robertson, at the residence of Lieut. Colonel Grace, of the H. C. Artillery, at Dum-Dum, Lieutenant F. N. Price, of the same Regiment, to Miss Ann Helena Grace, Daughter of Colonel Grace.

On the 29th ultimo, Mr. Peter Crawford Conran, of the Adjutant General's Office, to Miss Matilda Cannon.

### BIRTHS.

At the Presidency, on the 3rd instant, Mrs. A. Burn, of a Daughter.

On the 31st ultimo, Mrs. A. Heberlet, of a Son.

On the 28th ultimo, Mrs. L. Caetano, of a Son.

On the 24th ultimo, Mrs. Waller, of a Son.

On the 23rd ultimo, the Lady of R. M. Thomas, Esq. Attorney at Law, of a Son.

On the 9th ultimo, on board a hodge-row, at Dum-dum, near Dinagenpoor, Mrs. Davidson, Widow of the late J. M. Davidson, Esq. Civil Surgeon at Purneah, of a Daughter.

### DEATHS.

At Nusrabad, of a fever, on the 26th September, Captain Charles B. Borlase, of the 2d Regiment Light Cavalry.

At Futtighur, on the 21st ultimo, Arthur, the youngest Son of James Donnithorne, Esq.—aged 19 months.

At Sea, on the 22d September, Mr. Mathew McGready—aged 20 years.

## Poetic Selections.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

The love of country, which God and Nature have implanted in your heart, will ever influence you to applaud such acts of patriotism, manliness, and virtue, in Britons, as contribute to the increase of evil and the decrease of good. Under this impression, I send you two pieces of Poetry, which turned up in looking over some old English Papers, and which have never yet, I believe, graced an Indian Journal. The subject of these, you will perceive, is a description of as brilliant an instance of heroism and devoted attachment as was ever recorded.

The brief outline of the story is this:—The Swallow, sloop of war, was engaged in the Mediterranean, with a vessel double her size. Midst of this action, in which the Captain, Officers, and Crew, immortalized their names, and in which, more than half of the latter gloriously fell in their country's cause, the instance of devotedness and gallantry, which is the subject of the verses, occurred. A seaman, of the name of Philan, had his wife (Anna) on board, she was down below assisting the surgeon to dress the wounded, when she was attracted to the guns by the information of her husband being wounded himself. She found him there, in *articulo mortis*, when another shot took her in a vital part, and they expired in each others arms; their only boy was adopted by their surviving messmates, who for want of proper nourishment, suckled it with goat's milk. The goat allowed the child to suck it, the sailors nursed it, and the surviving officers have since recommended it to the Prince Regent, who ordered it to be sent to school, and will provide for it.

To the few who may have read in the English Papers, the lines in which this affecting story is embodied, the deep interest they must always excite in every feeling bosom will plead your apology; in the hands of those who have never before seen them, they must awaken the most exalted sentiments of admiration and philanthropy; without further preface, I subjoin them.

Shehabad, Oct. 25, 1819.

A LOVER OF MY COUNTRY.

## PHILAN AND ANNA.

Glowing with rage, the God of War  
In peals of thunder spoke,  
And swiftly hurl'd the bolts of death  
Involv'd in fire and smoke.  
While, to his Country's honor true,  
Undaunted Philan stood,  
Mid heaps of slaughter'd comrades round,  
And streams of purple blood.  
His sparkling eyes indignant flash'd  
Destruction on the foe;  
His steady and muzzling aim,  
Laid many a Frenchman low.  
The gallant Tar his Anna lov'd,  
And fair and chaste was she:  
And Anna, with her Sailor, brav'd  
The dangers of the sea.  
And while he fought, soft Pity's voice,  
To woman's heart most dear,  
Bade Anna tend the wounded Tar,  
And wipe the falling tear;  
Her consolation to the soul,  
New vigour gave, and life:  
She, the endearing substitute  
For sister, mother, wife.  
But Anna, cease thy generous care,  
A nobler duty calls:  
For now, by that ill-fated shot,  
Thine own dear Philan falls!  
Swiftly thro' the battle's rage,  
On wings of love she flies;  
And, gasping on the blood-stain'd deck,  
Her wounded Tar espies.  
Him dying, in her arms she rais'd,  
And to her bosom press'd,  
And strove, with kindest love, to soothe  
The anguish of his breast.  
For such a glorious fate as this,  
Who would not wish to die?  
His latest moments cheer'd by love,  
And hopes of victory!  
But when he op'd his eyes, once more  
His Anna's face to see,  
And ere he caught the parting kiss,  
A headless corpse was she!—  
Pain would the weeping Muse no more  
Of this sad tale relate;  
While pity bids her still to moan,  
An orphan's helpless fate.  
For gracious Heav'n with one sweet boy  
Had bless'd the faithful pair;  
But he, nor Philan's love must know,  
Nor Anna's softer care.  
Yet sure for him, those infant smiles  
Shall other parents gain;  
For pity to the Sailor's breast,  
Did never speak in vain.  
By pity nurs'd, the boy shall live  
To tell with conscious pride—  
How Philan for his Country fell;  
And how poor Anna died.

## PHILAN'S ORPHAN BOY

Hark to that shout—the Briton cheers!  
On Ocean's breast a foe appears!  
The sons of Gallia caught from far  
The signal of a desperate war;  
They felt 'twas no inglorious strife  
That knell had rung for many a life!  
But of superior numbers vain,  
They gave them back their shout again!  
Near and more near the vessels drew,  
The hostile bands appear in view,  
With beating heart, and vengeful eye  
That flash'd the hope of victory;  
His signal shrill the Boatswain plies,  
Swift to his post each seaman flies;  
Yet gallant Philan\*, loth to part,  
Still held his Anna to his heart,  
And folded in a fond embrace  
His infant boy, whose beaming face,

Seem'd in new joy and smiles to glow,  
Unconscious of his parents' woe!—

But Philan must delay no more,  
For hark! the deep ton'd cannon's roar,  
A proud defiance England spoke,  
In burst of thunder, flame, and smoke.  
With peal as loud the Gauls reply—  
Now both the work of slaughter ply,  
While many a gallant seaman dies,  
And many a hero gasping lies;  
But shriek and groan are heard no more,  
Lost in the cannons louder roar.  
Poor Anna leaves the plaint of woe,  
And, busy in the hold below,  
The dying soothes, the wounded tends,  
And pity with assistance blends.  
Her husband's friend now meets her sight,  
Borne bleeding from the thickest fight;  
But while she calms the sufferer's breast,  
And lulls with hope his pangs to rest,  
She hears the wounded mercenary tell,  
How by his side her Philan fell,  
'And on the deck now bleeding lies,  
With none to close his dying eyes.'—

She heard no more—with panting breath,  
She rush'd mid thunder, flames, and death,  
And caught her Philan from the ground,  
Where many a hero dropt around;  
She clasped him dying to her heart—  
Her voice, her touch, could life impart:  
His eye shone with a moment's light,  
Then heavily it clos'd in night;  
He rais'd his head to meet her kiss,  
And then his soul would part in bliss!  
Oh! Tale, too dreadful to repeat,  
Ere yet thy mournful lips could meet,  
A ball came wing'd with ruthless sway,  
Her bending head was torn away!  
Ere Philan's spirit wing'd its flight,  
Again his eyes unclose'd to light;  
The shock a moment's life supplied,  
One look he gave—then groan'd, and died!

The battle ceas'd, the cannon's roar  
Now died upon the distant shore,  
And silence hush'd the tumult loud,  
For France to British valour bow'd!  
The tempest raging in each breast,  
No longer fed, had ebb'd to rest;  
But even in their hour of pride  
For Philan and his faithful bride  
They deeply mourn; and those who stood  
Then foremost in the strife of blood,  
Now give their souls to Pity's sway,  
And almost weeping turn away.  
The dead from grief no aid can find,  
Yet one sweet pledge remains behind,  
Their infant boy, of all bereft,  
An orphan, to the world is left;  
With all the warmth of seaman's breast,  
A hundred fathers round him press'd,  
And vow the tender child to rear,  
And like their own to hold him dear!  
But who the mother's aid will give?  
Without her care he cannot live;  
The stream of life that gave him breath,  
Is stain'd with blood, and seal'd in death.  
Perplex'd, they muse, and gaze, and sigh,  
And hope—yet fear the Boy must die!  
When one, with sudden rapture spoke,  
('Twas Heav'n itself the thought awoke)  
"The Boy shall yet a mother find,  
"A goat, that's in the ship confin'd,  
"Whose playful kid has chanc'd to die,  
"May now the nurse's aid supply."  
They all applaud the happy thought.  
Instant the shaggy nurse is brought.  
Oh! wonderful is Nature's sway,  
The infant, as it smiling lay,  
A mother in the goat has found!  
The seaman's hope with joy is crown'd!

One grave received the faithful pair,  
Their boy is left their messmate's care.  
Its nurse now fondly loves the child,  
That, like its kid, is sporting wild;  
And sternest hearts can gleam with joy  
To bless dear Philan's Orphan Boy!

\* seaman named Philan, on board the Swallow, Ship of War.

Swallow Man of War, Mahon, July 1, 1812.